

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Original) A collection of standardized, sealed vials containing lyophilized eukaryotic cells for use as controls in diagnostic assays wherein the cells after 4 weeks at 20°C have more than 50% of their 18S rRNA intact as measured by gel electrophoresis.

15. (Original) A sealed vial of claim 14 wherein the cells are infected with an RNA virus.

16. (Original) A sealed vial of claim 14 wherein the cells are lymphocytes.

17. (Original) A sealed vial of claim 14 wherein the vial contains an inhibitor of RNase in an amount effective to reduce degradation of RNA.

Claims 18-30 (Cancelled).